

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SP-02 COME-00 DOE-15

AID-05 SOE-02 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /126 W

-----021309 111239Z /47

R 092114Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7442

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENGR, BEXP, PN

SUBJECT: SOLAR ENERGY POLICY REVIEW

REF: A. STATE 145840, B. PANAMA 2116, C. PANAMA A-031,

APRIL 18, 1978, D. PANAMA 5355, JULY 27, 1977

1. PANAMA, IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON COSTLY IMPORTED CRUDE, HAS EMBARKED ON A \$430 MILLION HYDROELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM.
2. LATELY, THE GOP HAS ALSO SHOWN KEEN INTEREST IN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN INDUSTRIAL AND DOMESTIC SOLAR HEATING SYSTEMS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED PANAMANIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOLAR ENERGY (APES - REF C) IS EXPECTED TO ACT AS CONSULTATIVE AGENCY FOR THE INSTITUTE OF HYDRAULIC RESOURCES AND ELECTRIFICATION (IRHE). THE LATTER IS AUTONOMOUS GOP AGENCY FOR ELECTRICAL POWER OUTPUT AND DISTRIBUTION.
3. THE EMBASSY'S ECON/COM SECTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY (ICA) HAVE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH APES AND IRHE. APES'S VICE PRESIDENT ISAAC CASTILLO (REF C) HAS BEEN IN THE U.S. UNDER GOP (REF D) AND ICA GRANTS (REF B). CASTILLO HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS DIRECTORATE (REF D) TO IRHE'S DEPARTMENT FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY AND CONSER-

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VATION.

4. SOLAR ENERGY IN "SUNNY" PANAMA HAS EXCELLENT POTENTIAL FOR RELATED U.S. PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. PANAMA'S DOLLAR-BASED ECONOMY AND COLON FREE ZONE FACILITIES ALSO OFFER SIMILAR OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA.
5. THE EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL SECTION HAS ESTABLISHED AN EXTENSIVE REFERENCE FACILITY WHICH EMBODIES EXCERPTS OF

NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE PUBLICATIONS ON PROGRESS IN ENERGY
CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN U.S. AS WELL AS ADDS OF U.S.
FIRMS SPECIALIZING IN THIS FIELD. JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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